

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00239 081700Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1912

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, PBOR, SCUL, GR, TU

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER VISITS NORTHERN GREECE

REF: THESSALONIKI'S 0207

1. PRIME MINISTER ADAMANTIOS ANDROUTSOPOULOS BEGAN CURRENT VISIT TO NORTHERN GREECE WITH MID-AFTERNOON CIVIC RECEPTION IN THESSALONIKI'S METAXAS SQUARE MAY 7. RECEPTION HEADED BY METROPOLITAN LEO-NIDAS, NOMARCH KOURNAVOS AND MAYOR FLORIDES DESCRIBED AS QUIET AND RESTRAINED, WITH ESTIMATED 1500 PEOPLE ATTENDING, LARGELY CIVIC EMPLOYEES FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSED FOR OCCASION.

2. PRIME MINISTER'S RETINUE CONSISTED OF UNUSUAL NUMBER OF MINISTERS (EDUCATION, COMMERCE, PUBLIC ORDER, SOCIAL SERVICES, AGRICULTURE AND LABOR, WITH NATIONAL DEFENSE AND INDUSTRY REPORTEDLY EXPECTED TODAY), UNDER MINISTERS AND CHIEF OF ARMY GALATSANOS.

3. MAJOR EVENT OF VISIT, DEDICATION OF
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PAGE 02 THESSA 00239 081700Z

THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AND SCHOOL OF

PHILOSOPHY, HELD THIS MORNING (MAY 8) IN PRESENCE ABOVE PERSONALITIES, CIVIC, EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY LEADERS, AND ESTIMATED 3000 STUDENTS. ANDROUTSOPOULOS ADDRESS FROM PREPARED TEXT, FOLLOWING THOSE OF UNIVERSITY RECTOR, PHILOSOPHY SCHOOL DEAN, AND LIBRARY COMMITTEE PRESIDENT, INTERRUPTED WITH POLITE APPLAUSE ON FOUR OCCASIONS. FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL POINTS WE ABLE TO GATHER OVER POOR AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM AT SCENE:

A) GREECE'S ECONOMY IS GOOD AND WILL IMPROVE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW RECENT OIL DISCOVERY. THERE IS NO UNEMPLOYMENT, AND NO NEED TO RESORT TO HEAVY TAXES ON PEOPLE FOR REVENUES. NEW NATIONAL WEALTH IS PROPERTY OF PEOPLE AND WILL BE PUT AT DISPOSAL OF WEAKER CLASSES TO STRENGTHEN THEM THROUGH WIDE SOCIAL POLICY.

B) GREECE BELIEVES IN ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND REAFFIRMS ITS GEOGRAPHIC AND IDEALISTIC IDENTIFICATION WITH WEST. FAITHFUL TO NATO ALLIANCE, GREECE WILL EQUIP ITS ARMED FORCES FROM OWN RESOURCES AND PROSPECTS FOR INCREASE IN THIS ARMAMENT APPEAR GOOD IN FUTURE.

C) GREECE WILL DEFEND ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY AND SOVEREIGNTY, WHICH IS INDIVISIBLE ON LAND, SEAS AND ITS ISLANDS. IT WISHES FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH ALL, ESPECIALLY ITS NEIGHBORS, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL REGIME, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT FRIENDSHIP IS MUTUAL. "SELF INFURIATION" IS A WASTE OF ENERGY. GREECE HAS PROVEN THROUGH HISTORY IT WILL NEVER BOW TO FORCE, IT DESPISES VIOLENCE AND BASES ITS FOREIGN POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PRINCIPLES OF UN CHARTER. IT WOULD BE GREAT MISTAKE, HOWEVER, IF GREECE'S LONG-STANDING LOVE FOR PEACE WERE INTERPRETED AS WEAKNESS. ONE CANNOT SIMPLY PUT A SIGN ON ONE'S BORDER: YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO PROTECT THAT BORDER.

D) GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS PROBLEMS TODAY, AS HAS EVERY GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER WE RECOGNIZE THEM, AND OUR ABILITY TO COPE WITH THEM SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.

E) DEMOCARCY IS BASED ON EDUCATION, AND WHEN EDUCATION IS AT ITS BEST, SO IS DEMOCRACY.

4. AMONG OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, PRIME MINISTER YESTERDAY RECEIVED DELEGATION OF NORTHERN GREEK TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, WHICH AGAIN REGISTERED REQUEST FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF MINISTRY OF
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PAGE 03 THESSA 00239 081700Z

NORTHERN GREECE. THIS STRONGLY SECONDED BY EDITORIAL IN TODAY'S "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" WHICH ASSERTED THAT DEMAND FOR REINSTITUTION OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS NOW GENERAL. (THESSALONIKI'S 0215, NOTAL).
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